Balance of trade position

129. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the Reserve Bank the exports increased marginally while the imports shot up by 30 per cent during the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, what is the estimated accumulated trade deficit for the first three quarters of the current financial year, quarter-wise; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to minimise the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has not conducted any such study. However, during the period April—September, 1985, exports registered a marginal decline of 0.7 per cent and imports increased by 24.5 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. The provisional trade deficit during April—June, 1985 was Rs. 2109.1 crores and during April—September, 1985 it amounted to Rs. 4124 crores. With a view to reducing trade deficit vigorous promotional measures have been taken during the recent past. These include increasing our exports, diversifying our productive base, modernising our productive apparatus, modification and periodic revision of our industrial and fiscal policies etc. Efforts are also being made to step up our indigenous production of importables during the Seventh Five year Plan period, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

Evasion of excise duty dues

130. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the quantum of excise duty payments being evaded in the country per year and what is the latest figures of arrears of excise duty payments which is outstanding realisation;

(b) whether any scheme for the recovery of excise duty dues has been evolved; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken in persuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The amount of arrears of central excise duty pending realisation as on the 31st December, 1985 is approximately Rs. 637 crores. Lately, no assessment has been made about the amount of excise duty payments evaded per year.

(b) and (c) The realisation of arrears of revenue is an on-going function and such measures aimed at realising the arrears as are considered necessary from time to time, continue to be taken. These measures include steps to expedite the finalisation of the cases of disputed demands, approaching competent appellate authorities/courts where recoveries had been stayed for vacating the stays and enforcing the demands through persuasive action in cases where the demands are not stayed.